(c) the progress made so far in this regard;

(d) the Research Units involved in the country for harnessing nuclear energy for agriculture; and

(e) the steps taken to promote the use of nuclear energy in the field of agriculture?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K.C. LENKA): (a) to (c). Sir, Nuclear energy is being used for creating genetic variability in crops and for studying nurtient transformation as well as nutrient and water movement in soil. Several mutants including commercial cultivators have been developed in important crops such as wheat, rice, cotton, sugrarane and pulses. In Animal Sciences it is being used for radio-immuno assays, tracers for minerals and for vaccine production.

(d) and (e). The ICAR institutes and State Agricultural Universities are involved in harnessing nuclear energy for agriculture. They are collaborating with national and international agencies for promoting use of nuclear energy in the field of agriculture.

[*English*]

Rape of Minors in Delhi

2619. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether rape of minors is fast becoming a trend in Delhi;

(b) if so, the number of such incidents which occurred in Delhi during 1991 and 1992 so far; and

(c) the steps taken being taken to check the menace?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS: (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) to (c). The Delhi Police have reported that number of cases of rape of minors from 1st January, 1991 to 15th February, 1992 is 131.

Amongst the steps taken are increased surveillance over the activities of bad characters, increased vigilance and intensive patrolling so that police presence and its effects are felt and serve as deterrent.

[*Translation*]

Austerity Measures in Indian Embassies

2620. SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to take austerity measures in Indian Embassies/High Commissions/Consulates abroad; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b). The Ministry of External Affairs have adopted austerity measures for Indian Missions and Posts abroad in line with the economy measures adopted by the Government of India. These involve general budgetary restrictions specific cuts in the allocation for capital expenditure and travel, and the exercise of the maximum possible economy in all expenditure.

[*English*]

Recruitment of Blinds in Government Service

2621. SHRI GANGADHARA SANIPALLI: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of blind persons in the country State-wise; and

(b) the number of blind persons recruited in the various Central Government offices during the last three years?